

REMARKS

In the present Office Action, claims 1, 13 and 20 were initially rejected and claims 2-12 were indicated as being allowable if re-written in independent form. Also, claim 20 was objected to because of a minor informality in the claim. With this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 20 are amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2, which was indicated as being allowable. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 20 and their respective dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

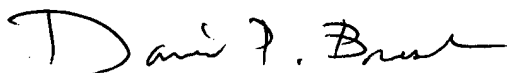
In addition, the phrase "increasing or decreasing" has been replaced with "varying" in claim 20 to avoid the alternative language that was objected to by the Examiner.

With this Amendment, Applicants believe all pending claims should be in condition for allowance.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 
David D. Brush, Reg. No. 34,557
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

DDB:tkj